

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01

SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /103 W
----- 034163

R 080547Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 940

INFO USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IR

SUBJ: VISIT OF CHINESE VICE PREMIER

1. BILLED AS REPRESENTING AGING CHOU EN LAI, CHINESE VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN LIEN, HIS WIFE AND TEN-MAN DELEGATION, ARE VISITING IRAN APRIL 5-10. THIS VISIT REPAYS 1972 JOURNEY TO CHINA BY EMPRESS FARAH AND PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA. LI'S VISIT IS SAID TO BE LARGELY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL BUT HAS DEFINITE POLITICAL OVERTONES WITH LOCAL MEDIA DESCRIBING TRIP AS FORAY INTO A REGION WHERE CHINA HAD NOT STATED ITS VIEWS AND POLICIES. CHINESE VICE PREMIER WAS RECEIVED BY SHAH APRIL 6 WHILE MADAME LI HAD SEPARATE AUDIENCE WITH EMPRESS. LI LATER MET WITH HOVEYDA FOR THREE-HOUR DISCUSSION WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY, COMMERCE MINISTER MAHDAVI AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNDERSECRETARY MEHRAN. REMAINDER OF VISIT WILL INCLUDE SIGHTSEEING IN ISFAHAN AND TRAVEL TO ISFAHAN REFINERY.

2. LOCAL PRESS GIVING EVENT FRONT PAGE COVERAGE WITH PARTICULAR
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EMPHASIS ON AUDIENCE AND STATEMENTS BY LI AT FOREIGN MINISTRY

BANQUET APRIL 5 SUPPORTING IRAN-IRAQ BORDER AGREEMENT AND IRANIAN POSITIONS ON MID-EAST NUCLEAR FREE ZONE AND OPPOSITION TO PRESENCE OF BOTH SUPER POWERS IN INDIAN OCEAN. LI ALSO LAUDED RESULTS OF ALGIERS OPEC SUMMITRY WHILE HOVEYDA ALLUDED TO THE VARIOUS COM-MERCAIL AND CULTURAL ACCORDS BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES AND SPOKE OF QTE EXTENSIVE HORIZONS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE UNQTE INCLUDING THE PROSPECT OF QTE EXTENSIVE COLLABORATION AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH WILL ENABLE OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO SECURITY AND PEACE OF ASIA UNQTE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOO INVOLVED WITH VISIT TO COMMENT AT PRESENT BUT PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA TOLD AMBASSADOR AND SENATOR JAVITS APRIL 5 THAT LI HAD TOLD HIM CHINESE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES BOTH US AND RUSSIANS WANT CONTINUING QTE NO WAR/NO PEACE UNQTE SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. HOVEYDA CLAIMED HE RESPONDED THAT HIS UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE OF SOVIETS BUT AMERICANS VERY ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF ARAB/ISRAEL CONFLICT. ACCORDING HOVEYDA LI ALSO FELT THAT RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD ACCOMPLISH LITTLE BUT WOULD HAVE DESIRABLE EFFECT OF PROVIDING ARAB COUNTRIES WITH AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM TO PUBLICIZE THEIR POINT OF VIEW. HOVEYDA SAID HE AGREED WITH LI'S ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE RESULTS AT GENEVA WHICH HE LIKENED TO THE PROPAGANDA BARRAGE A DEFEATED TROTSKY LAUNCHED AGAINST HIS POWERFUL GERMAN ENEMY AT BREST-LITOVSK.

4. COMMENT: LI'S STATEMENTS SUPPORTING IRANIAN FOREIGN POLICY AIMS AND HIS CONCERN WITH ARAB/ISRAEL SITUATION SEEM TO LEND A SIGNIFI-CANT POLITICAL COLORATION TO THE CHINESE VICE PREMIER'S ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL VISIT. HIS REMARKDS ARE CONTINUATION OF GENERAL CHINESE PRO-IRANIAN LINE ENUNCIATED BY FOREIGN MINISTHER CHI PENG-FEI IN 1973 WHEN HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED IRAN'S ARMS BUILDUP AND ITS POLICY IN THE PERSIAN GULF (SEE TEHRAN 4373 OF JUNE 1973).
HELMS

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